

March 6, 2017

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

*Re: Amendment of Part 0, 1, 2, 15 and 18 of the Commission's Rules regarding
Authorization Of Radiofrequency Equipment, ET Docket No. 15-170 -- Notice of
Oral Ex Parte Presentation*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 2, 2017, Ken Stewart, Anil Nanduri, Jayne Stancavage and Linda Kinney from Intel Corp. met with Chairman Pai, Rachael Bender, Commissioner Clyburn, and Daudeline Meme. Jayne Stancavage, John Roman, Linda Kinney (in person) and Todd Rallison and Robert Paxman (by phone) of Intel Corp. also met with the following members of the Office of Engineering and Technology: Julie Knapp, Michael Ha, Walter Johnston, Geraldine Matise, Jamison Prime, Brian Butler, Nicholas Oros, and Rashmi Doshi (by phone). In addition, Jayne Stancavage, Reza Arefi, and Linda Kinney met with Commissioner O'Rielly and Erin McGrath on March 3, 2017.

Intel is expanding its history of innovation in a new business direction -- by transforming from a PC company to a company that also powers the cloud and billions of smart, connected devices. During those meetings, Intel described the early 5G products it is designing, testing, and delivering. To accommodate these new devices and over 100 billion anticipated connections, Intel shared its views on how the United States can continue to show leadership by making more spectrum available for 5G and streamlining the FCC equipment authorization rules.

Specifically, to keep up with the sheer number of connected devices that need to be authorized, Intel urged the FCC to take quick action on a pending rulemaking intended to modernize the FCC's equipment authorization process.¹ Intel supports and relies on the important role the FCC -- and OET in particular -- plays in ensuring that RF devices do not cause harmful interference. Nevertheless, as the Commission recognized in its 2015 *Notice* in the above-captioned proceeding, the rules need to be modernized to reflect advancements in technology. Given increasing demand for smart, connected devices (*i.e.*, experts predict 34 billion devices will be connected to the internet by 2020), failure to streamline the approval process now delays the launch of new products and unnecessarily increases the cost of deployment.

¹ Amendment of Part 0, 1, 2, 15 and 18 of the Commission's Rules regarding Authorization Of Radiofrequency Equipment, *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, ET Docket No. 15-170, 30 FCC Rcd 7725 (2015) [*"Notice"*].

During the meetings, Intel representatives focused on the following topics:

(1) Simplifying and Streamlining the Approval Process.

As technology advances, demand is increasing for configurable platforms made up of different internal and external components that involve a variety of device models, type numbers, trade names, and possible equipment configurations. To foster growth, the FCC needs to structure the approval process to allow for maximum flexibility.

In this regard, Intel supports the FCC's proposal to do away with the rigid "electrically identical" rule, which would allow manufacturers to make changes to devices without requiring a new FCC ID.² Intel representatives also discussed the possibility of submitting a prototype for testing and authorization: once an FCC ID is issued, future designs and configurations would not trigger additional regulatory requirements, provided the manufacturer self-verifies through testing that the device parameters fall within the "maximum envelope" established by the initial certification.

In addition, Intel representatives expressed support for the concept of allowing self-approval for a class of very low-power IoT devices. As technology advances, the size and power levels of many connected devices are reducing, while the number of devices is multiplying. Intel representatives emphasized the need to weigh the burden of a formal approval process against the level of risk resulting from any emissions. Specifically, if a device does not pose any real threat to public safety or other connected equipment, then self-approval should be sufficient.³

(2) Product Labeling and Marketing Flexibility.

As the Commission has acknowledged, consumer notices and product labeling have evolved with the proliferation of digital devices. Intel representatives expressed support for the use of e-labeling for devices with an integrated electronic display, and suggested expanding that flexibility as smaller and smaller IoT devices are introduced into the marketplace. In some instances, an IoT device might be so small that an integrated electronic display and a physical label are both impractical. Moreover, as shipping and other supply-chain systems become more automated, the use of physical labels becomes less effective – for authorized devices, pre-production samples, and evaluation kits.

Intel representatives also encouraged Commission officials to increase flexibility with regard to marketing radio frequency devices prior to equipment authorization in light of evolving market conditions and funding mechanisms. Indeed, current restrictions on the advertising and other promotion of unauthorized equipment were developed decades ago (long before the advent of websites and social media as vehicles for product

² See Notice, 30 FCC Rcd at 7742-46.

³ See, e.g., ex parte filed by MMF, now the Mobile and Wireless Forum (MWF).

promotion), are not well understood by many in industry, and impose burdens on manufacturers that outweigh the benefits. Frequently, the underlying objective of the rule can be met by limiting the delivery of devices to end users prior to equipment authorization.

As discussed during the meeting, FCC rules currently allow some presales through conditional sales contracts.⁴ Intel representatives asserted that additional loosening of requirements would also serve the public interest by reducing overlap with Federal Trade Commission consumer protection rules.

(3) Simplifying Importation.

Intel representatives commended Commission staff for simplifying the importation process by proposing to eliminate, then suspending, the FCC Form 740 requirement as of July 1, 2016. In order to streamline internal tracking procedures, Intel representatives emphasized the importance of aligning importation obligations with standard Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") requirements. During the discussion, all parties agreed that the information formerly required by Form 740 can now be obtained through alternate methods, including through the internet. The FCC staff further clarified that currently there is no obligation to continue to track FCC ID numbers or other FCC-specific information above and beyond standard CBP requirements.

Pursuant to Section 1.206 of the Commission's Rules, this letter is being filed electronically via the Electronic Comment Filing System in the above-referenced proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jayne Stancavage

Jayne Stancavage

Attachment

cc: Chairman Ajit Pai
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael O'Rielly
Julius Knapp
Rachael Bender
Daudeline Meme
Erin McGrath
Michael Ha
Walter Johnston

⁴ See 47 C.F.R. 2.803(c)(2).

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Brian Butler

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Rashmi Doshi